

## **Vaccine Storage Temperature Monitoring Guidelines**

### **Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program**

The following minimum guideline standards are required for monitoring the storage temperature of publicly supplied vaccines. The standards are applicable to local health jurisdictions, hospitals, public and private providers and any other entity responsible for storing and handling publicly purchased vaccines. Publicly purchased vaccines are all vaccines ordered and received through the Washington State Childhood Vaccine Program at the Washington State Department of Health, Immunization Program.

Local health jurisdictions (LHJs) responsible for monitoring provider vaccine storage and handling practices can set additional requirements or standards for vaccine storage temperature monitoring they think are needed to ensure vaccines are viable when they are used.

These requirements support best practice for vaccine storage and handling as defined by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/default.htm>

#### **Minimum requirements for vaccine storage unit temperature monitoring:**

- Use of a certified thermometer and back up for each unit is required (for proper placement and equipment specifications, see thermometer guidelines).
- Vaccine storage unit temperature measurements must be manually recorded on the DOH supplied temperature-monitoring log at least twice a day. Twice daily temperature monitoring and recording is required even if a continuous graphing/recording thermometer or a digital data logger is used.
- Providers will review their temperature logs weekly to ensure proper temperature recording.
- Providers will send temperature logs to their LHJ with the provider's monthly vaccine accountability reports.

#### **How to monitor vaccine storage temperatures:**

1. Post the temperature log on the vaccine storage unit door. The DOH supplied temperature-monitoring log allows both refrigerator and freezer temperatures to be recorded on a single page.
2. CHECK THE TEMPERATURE IN EACH UNIT at least twice a day: once in the morning when the storage unit door is opened for the first time, and again at the end of the clinic day just before the storage unit door is closed for the last time.
3. Record the temperatures FOR EACH UNIT on the temperature log.
4. Twice daily temperature monitoring and recording is required even if continuous graphing/recording thermometers, digital data loggers or alarmed electronic temperature monitoring system are used.
5. Record the times the thermometers were read and initial the temperature log.
6. If a temperature reading is missed, the blank log entry should remain blank. Do not guess what the temperature was.